



Life Course

Childhood Risk Factor

Brief Name

ACE: Death of Parent

Indicator

Percent of children who experienced the death of one or more parent or guardian.

Description

This is a proxy measure for toxic stress and is included as an Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE). This question asks parents, *"Did [child's name] ever live with a parent or guardian who died?"*

WI	US	Best	Worst
2.6%	3.1%	1.4%	7.1%
		CT	DC

Year

2011/2012

Numerator

Number of children who experienced the ACE

Denominator

Children aged 0-17

Importance

Death of a parent or caregiver was not in the original list of ACEs, but has been included in the National Survey of Children's Health (NSCH) because of its impact on a child's psychological well-being, both short- and long-term (Nickerson, 2011).

Limitations

This metric does not account for the death of non-parent caregivers or siblings, nor a parent who lived outside the home.

Source

NSCH 2011/12. Data query from the Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative, Data Resource Center for Child and Adolescent Health website. Retrieved from www.childhealthdata.org. Nickerson, Angela, et al. "The impacts of parental loss and adverse parenting on mental health: Findings from the National Comorbidity Survey-Replication." *Psychological Trauma: Theory, Research, Practice, and Policy*, 5.2 (2013): 119.